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COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Divisional Exercise of the 7th Gds Mech Div. in the Spremberg-Cottbus-Lieberose Area

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 14 September 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. Between 25 August and 1 September 1955, the Pionier Kaserne (4502) in Fuerstenwalde was occupied by some 200 soldiers and the north section of the installation by a division headquarters.

2. At about 1600 on 24 August, the following vehicles were seen in the barracks yard ready to leave: 24 trucks, each carrying a three-section pontoon, 1 truck with a motorboat, 1 three-axle amphibious vehicle, 10 empty trucks, 4 repair shop trucks, and 3 jeeps. At about 2100, the column left toward Trebus. The 10 trucks carried 180 to 200 soldiers.[2]

3. Reconditioning work in the kitchens was to be completed by 2 or 3 September. It is assumed that the units were expected to return by that date.[1]

4. In the morning of 24 August, 14 M-13 rocket launchers and 10 trucks were seen in the yard of the installation on Braunsdorfer Strasse (4501) in Fuerstenwalde. Some 120 soldiers were lined up in front of the vehicles, apparently ready to depart.[3]

5. On 25 and 26 August, the following 5 shipments left the Frankfurt/Oder railroad station:
25 August: At 0815, a shipment of 16 T-34 tanks, 6 trucks and 10 boxcars with personnel toward Cottbus.
At 2330, a shipment of 12 JS-1 tanks, 6 trucks and 6 boxcars with personnel toward Cottbus.
26 August. At 0335, a shipment of 10 tanks, 6 armored personnel carriers, 20 trucks and 3 boxcars with personnel to Spremberg. At 0450, a shipment of 10 tanks, 15 trucks and 6 boxcars with personnel toward Cottbus.
At 0600, a shipment of 4 tanks, 4 JSU-122 guns, 10 trucks and 3 boxcars with personnel toward Cottbus.[4]

6. Between 1800 on 1 September and 0230 on 2 September, intensive traffic by columns was observed coming from the direction of Beeskow and going toward Frankfurt/Oder. Some 50 tanks, presumably T-34s, 45 trucks carrying soldiers, 13 AA guns, presumably of 37-mm caliber, 30 motorcycles and 6 field kitchens were observed between 1840 and 1945 on 1 September.

7. At 0400 on 1 September, a train of 30 flatcars carrying 22 AT guns, presumably of 57-mm caliber, 8 trucks and 6 boxcars with personnel passed through the Muellrose railroad station. At 0955, it was followed by a train of 18 flatcars with 12 T-34

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or T-54 tanks, 1 field kitchen and 5 boxcarloads of troops. Both trains came from the direction of Cottbus and proceeded toward Frankfurt/Oder.

8. On 1 September, 2 tank shipments, which arrived from the direction of Cottbus, were unloaded in Frankfurt/Oder. The first train arrived at 0615 and carried 12 JS-1 or JS-2 tanks and 10 boxcarloads of personnel; the second train arrived at 1110 and carried 10 JSU-152 guns, 1 salvage tank, 6 trucks and 2 boxcarloads of soldiers. It could not be determined to which installation the unloaded units proceeded.[5]

9. The following two trains from Beeskow to Berlin-Schoeneweide were announced for 2 September:
a train of 10 converted boxcars and 31 flatcars
and a train of 10 converted boxcars and 37 flatcars

10. On 26 August, a troop train of approximately 50 cars with guns, trucks and personnel went from Altengrabow to Lieberose.[6]

1. Comment. The information on the occupation of the Pionier Kaserne in Fuerstenwalde confirms the previously reported dep[illegible] of the units stationed in the installation. The information that the u[illegible] to return on 2 or 3 September agrees with the observation of rail shipments and columns on 1 and 2 September mentioned in paragraphs 8 and 9. See Comment 5.

2. Comment. [illegible] be determined [illegible] Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, [illegible] hward (1) ([illegible] 5 km north of Fuerstenwalde) on 24 August [illegible] ipated in the fall exercises of the division.

3. Comment. The rocket launchers which for the first time since 26 May 1954, were definitely observed in the barracks installation on Braunsdorferstrasse on 24 August, may indicate the present location of the 312th Gds RL Regt of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army and the u/i RL Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div: 312th Gds RL Regt - Pionier Kaserne (4502) Fuerstenwalde ? u/i RL Bn/7th Gds Mecz Div - barracks installation on Braunsdorferstrasse (4501) Fuerstenwalde ? This assumption is based on the following observations: The departure of the rocket launcher unit from the installation on Braunsdorferstrasse on 24 August was apparently executed at about the same time as the departure of major elements of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. No rocket launchers have been observed in the Ziethen Kaserne (4444) in Frankfurt/Oder, which has been believed to quarter the u/i RL Bn of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, or at the Frankfurt/Oder post after 17 October 1953. On 17 August 1955, soldiers who trained with 2 rocket launchers were for the first time observed in the Pionier Kaserne in Fuerstenwalde.

4. Comment. The shipment on 25 August, which left Frankfurt/Oder at 0815, is probably identical with shipment [illegible] departure Frankfurt/Oder 0810) The other shipments from Frankfurt/Oder toward Cottbus and to Spremberg are reported for the first time. The information indicates that major elements of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. from the Frankfurt/Oder (12 shipments), Fuerstenwalde (2 shipments) and Berlin-Karlshorst (2 shipments) posts went to the unloading area south of Cottbus.

5. Comment. Shipments to and from the training area, as well as columns observed, tend to indicate that the 1955 fall exercises of the 7th Gds Mecz Div. developed similar to the 1954 fall exercise (19-23 September 1954); the exercise started in the Cottbus-Spremberg area and terminated in the Lieberose-Beeskow area.

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6. Comment. It is possible that an unidentified artillery unit from Altengrabow as well as an artillery and a tank unit of the 10th Gds Tank Div. from Potsdam and Krampnitz also participated in the fall exercise of the 7th Gds Mech. Div. (the latter two units possibly as enemy group).

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